

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, January 28, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody, Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, and Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin

ACTION TAKEN - The Commission approved the December 17, 2009 minutes as submitted. The motion was passed by Commissioners Gasco and Sofro.

IV. Chair's Report

MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting Report– The group met on January 12, 2010, Terry Lewis, Executive Director reported the following:

- A discussion took place on how to support the needs of the SAAC communities without funds or resources. The main discussion focused on support staff provided by DMH to assist in increasing membership and establishing goals. The department plans to assist by providing interns in this capacity.

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights – Larry Gasco, Commissioner, reported issues discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on January 14, 2010:

- Commissioner Caballero continues interviewing older adult representatives to speak at the full Commission meetings. Mr. Gasco commended Mr. Caballero on this effort.

DMH Presentations at the Executive Committee

- **Chris Contreras**, LCSW, Manager Veterans Services discussed the department's plan to serve the 30,000 veterans expected to return to Los Angeles County. Mr. Contreras meets with veteran service organizations collaborating on policies, a website, and MOUs for service delivery and training of staff. The department is sponsoring a conference on March 1, 2010, featuring the movie "Another Kind of Valor," and a discussion.
- **Debbie Innes-Gomberg**, MHSA Implementation District Chief discussed the current implementation project intended to help clients seek services outside the system; how to get clients in, match services to the need, and get them independent.

CALMHBC Quarterly Meeting Report – The CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions) met January 21-22, 2010 in San Diego California. Commissioners Frank Baron, Larry Gasco, Delores Huffman, and Terry Lewis attended the meeting. Highlights from the meeting were:

- Treasurer and Secretary positions are vacant; when filled the positions will be compensated
- New officer elections slated in June 2010
- Planning council sponsored training on Brown Act by CALMHBC Treasurer Susan Wilson. Commissioner Huffman suggested Ms. Wilson provide the training for entire Commission.

Bylaws Committee Report – The Bylaws Committee met January 14, 2010. The following lists modifications proposed by the committee for Commission officers: (text in **bold** and *italic* reflects word changes and new and deleted duties)

OFFICER	DUTIES MODIFIED
Chair	No <i>unauthorized</i> individual may represent the MHC or speak for the MHC unless designated to do so.
Vice Chair	<i>New</i> - Facilitate annual retreat and New Employee Orientations
Secretary	<i>Delete</i> – Perform the usual duties pertaining to secretaries. <i>Monitor the maintenance of</i> attendance of Commission members and promptly report to the Board of Supervisors any MHC member whose position has been vacated pursuant to County Ordinance #4099 (as specified in Section III, above): and, <i>New</i> - Other duties as requested by the Chairperson

ACTION TAKEN - The Commission approved and adopted the modifications made by the Bylaws Committee noted above.

The vote of the Commission was unanimous. The motion was passed by Commissioners Huffman and Wolff.

MHC Primary Goals for FY 2009/10

Clients with Physical and Mental Disabilities - Commissioner Thompson discussed difficulties in gathering accurate data for persons with physical and mental disabilities who are integrated among the impacted departments. Based on a review of the data available approximately 4% were served which appears to be under represented. It was recommended to do the following to further confirm these results:

- Review the forms that represent the data reported
- Retrieve stats from Emergency Outreach Bureau's default system with Department of Health Services because 5150 calls usually involve health facilities and patients with health issues.

Older Adults – Commissioner Caballero provided the following update on increasing older adult services in LA County:

- Met with Cal State, Long Beach faculty member Dr. John Oliver. Mr. Oliver has an impressive recruitment model to attract students to the Geriatric program. The college will co-sponsor a conference themed to attract youth to college age into this field.
- Met with DMH Older Adult Program and Fire Department representatives to discuss older adults getting lost in the system. The group also discussed the development of a 911 model emergency phone number specifically for older adults and specialized trainings such as hoarding.

STATS (Strategies for Total Accountability and Total Success) – Dr. Robin Kay invited Jerry Lubin to attend the STATS meetings. At this meeting, service area and program management crunch numbers and report on performance measurements exclusively. Administration and human resource performance goals are measured as well in the STATS process.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Sofro – Victoria Sofro reported the following:

- STATS reported 966 clients from the Wellness Center are either working, attending or volunteering
- Connections for Life Conference date is April 7, 2010 at the CA Endowment

Commissioner Huffman – Delores Huffman submitted the following report:

MHSA Housing Program

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of January 27, 2010 is shown below:

Finalizing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment

- Swarthy World Society
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families

Public Posting in Process

- Parker Hotel
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project
- Willis Avenue Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)

Preparing Technical Submission

- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments

Technical Submission under Review

- PWC Family Housing
- KIWA Apartments
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- NoHo Senior Villas

Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval

- Menlo Family Housing
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences

Approved for Funding by the State

- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

Housing Trust Fund

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, eight projects are in operation as of December 15, 2009. Bonnie Brae Apartments is scheduled to celebrate their opening in the next month and the remaining projects including Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center are both slated to open in fall 2010 and Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011.

On November 18, 2009, the Department requested additional information from nine respondents to the Request for Information (RFI) released August 25, 2009 who appeared to have eligible projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The August 25, 2009 RFI was interested in determining if there were any potential contractors with demonstrated capability and interest in providing on-site supportive services in permanent supportive housing or shared housing projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The nine respondents were asked to submit the additional information by December 14, 2009. After careful review of the additional information, the Department will determine which respondents to enter into competitive negotiations.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding

Upon recommendations from the MHSA Housing Advisory Board (Advisory Board), the Department plans to re-open its Expression of Interest to leverage NSP funding with the MHSA Housing Program funding. The Advisory Board recommended

utilizing \$1.2 millions of accrued interest from the MHSA Housing Program funding.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

As at December 31st 2009, the Department fully utilized \$51,051 which was awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide rental/eviction and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the current economic condition.

Under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) the Department applied for \$80,000 in motel vouchers and \$80,000 in food vouchers for a total of \$160,000. Such resources would be available Countywide through our directly-operated clinics. These resources are not funded through the ARRA.

Housing Trust Fund

The PATH Ventures-Bonnie Brae Older Adults Apartments are scheduled to open in February 2010.

VI. Special Presentation – Faye Ashby, MSW, Pacific Clinics

Ms. Faye Ashby, MSW, is the Corporate Director of Older Adult Services at Pacific Clinics. Ms. Ashby discussed services provided for older adults and challenges older adult programs face, topics included:

- Specialized in older adult services since 1985
- Services were developed because of stigma, ageism, mental health, and substance abuse issues.
- Pacific Clinics Institute – offers courses on older adult health issues and services
- Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (since 1999) a collaboration of social work schools and agencies partner to support a geriatric social work workforce
- Clinic has 8 programs, 6 locations in 4 service areas, and serves approximately 500 per year
- Service area 3 and 7 – Full Service Partnerships and Field Capable Clinical Services
- Service Areas 4 and 6 – Full service partnerships
- Challenges for Older Adult Programs - Finding qualified staff that are compassionate and respectful of older adults; staff that are bilingual/bicultural and have experience with multiple complex issues. Resources lack safe affordable housing, limited dollars for

unfunded consumers, rehabilitation services for older adults, and support systems.

VII. **Departmental Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director**

Dr. Southard acknowledged graduates from the Latino Leadership Program who were in the audience and congratulated their achievement.

Dr. Southard reported on the following:

- **DMH 50th Anniversary** – Specific details for the event are:
 - a) The focus of the academic session at UCLA on May 21 has changed to reflect the outcomes of MHSA. Outcomes that have been discovered during the MHSA process based on academic information and research.
 - b) Refocus to address the health care reform proposed by recent political changes.
 - c) Encourage staff involvement in May is Mental Health Month activities scheduled at DMH clinics. The clinics will host a minimum of two events.
 - d) DMH plans to recognize all former mental health directors with a 5-signature scroll from the board.
- **MHSA** – The MHSA Innovations Plan was approved by the State.
- **Budget** – DMH has a solution to address the \$42 million deficit for fiscal years 2009/10 and 2010/11. Increase PEI transformation in directly operated clinics and re-train staff to follow evidence based practices that focus on outcomes. The solution will cause a 10% increase in patient case loads at the DMH clinics.
- **Prisoner Release Program** – Approximately 7,700 parolees will be released to Los Angeles County of which 15% have mental health needs. The department plans to utilize its resources to assess the mental health needs and make referrals to programs that are available.
- **Legislative Report** – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal discussed the following:

- a) State's proposal to redirect mental health funding to pay for EPSDT programs for three fiscal years.

- b) Details of her recent visit to Sacramento to address the Senate Budget Committee. More support is needed from city and county advocates, coalitions, family members to support defending mental health funds.
- c) Ms. Rajlal requested the Commission to send a letter to both the Senate and Assembly Budget Committee members to support defending mental health funding.

ACTION TAKEN - The Commission approved to send a letter to both the Senate and Assembly Budget Committee chairs to support defending mental health funding.

The vote of the Commission was unanimous. The motion was passed by Commissioners Thompson and Huffman.

VIII. Community and SAAC Reports - None

IX. Public Comments

- Mark Karmatz – Question. Will client run programs be participating in the research for the 50th celebration?

X. Meeting Adjourned

XI. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION

**Thursday, February 25, 2010
Noon – 2:30 pm
500 W. Temple Street
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 739
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd